

IN THE CLAIMS

1. Please cancel Claims 1-11, 15-18, and 22-25 without prejudice.

2. Please enter the following new Claims 37-59:

*Sub 37* 37. A method of coating a stent, the method comprising applying a coating to said stent, said coating comprising a heparin compound having a hydrophobic counter ion.

*A1* 38. The method of Claim 37, wherein said coating further comprises a polymeric compound and optionally a therapeutic substance.

*B* 39. The method of Claim 38, wherein said polymeric compound is a copolymer of ethylene with vinyl alcohol.

*Sub 40* 40. The method of Claim 37, further comprising roughening at least a region of the surface of said stent prior to applying said coating.

*✓✓* 41. The method of Claim 37, further comprising applying a primer coating on the surface of said stent prior to applying said coating.

✓ 42. The method of Claim 41, wherein said primer coating is made of a material selected from a group consisting of ethylene vinyl alcohol copolymer, polycystine, polylysine, and reactive silanes, said reactive silanes comprising trimethoxysilane.

✓ 43. The method of Claim 41, further comprising roughening at least a region of the surface of said stent prior to applying said primer coating.

✓ 44. The method of Claim 43, further comprising heat-treating of said coating.

✓ 45. The method of Claim 41, wherein said primer coating contains at least one chlorosilane compound.

46. The method of Claim 45, wherein said chlorosilane compound has a functional head.

✓ 47. The method of Claim 46, wherein said functional head comprises an unsaturated group, an amino group, or a carboxyl group.

✓ 48. The method of Claim 37, wherein said heparin compound is

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✓✓✓ 49. A method of coating an implantable medical device, the method comprising coating said device with a composition including a heparin compound having a hydrophobic counter ion and at least one adhesion enhancer.

✓✓✓ 50. The method of Claim 49, wherein said adhesion enhancer is selected from a group consisting of poly(ethylene glycol), poly(ethylene oxide), poly(vinylpyrrolidone), poly(vinyl alcohol), poly(caprolactone), poly(glycolic acid), poly(ethylene-co-vinyl alcohol), hyaluronic acid, polyurethanes, copolymers of caprolactone and glycolic acid, copolymers of caprolactone and ethylene glycol, segmented polyurethanes, and mixtures thereof.

51. The method of Claim 49, wherein said coating is performed by dip coating or spraying.

52. The method of Claim 49, further comprising roughening at least a region of the surface of said device prior to coating.

✓✓✓ 53. A method of coating a stent, the method comprising:

(a) roughening at least a region of the surface of said stent; and

(b) applying a coating containing a heparin compound having a hydrophobic counter ion to said stent.

✓ 54. The method of Claim 53, further comprising heat-treating of said coating.

✓ 55. The method of Claim 54, wherein said heat-treating is conducted within a temperature range of about 50°C to about 100°C.

✓ 56. The method of Claim 53, wherein said roughening is performed by argon plasma etching.

57. The method of Claim 53, further comprising applying a primer coating on the surface of said stent prior to applying said coating.

58. A method of coating a stent, the method comprising:

(a) applying a coating containing a heparin compound having a hydrophobic counterion to said stent; and

(b) heat-treating of said coating.

✓ ✓ 59. The method of Claim 58, wherein said heat-treating is conducted within a temperature range of about 50°C to about 100°C.--

REMARKS

New Claims 37-59 are fully supported by the specification and the original claims.